

CLAIMS

1. An illuminable instrument panel display of an automobile vehicle, said display comprising:

a first plate having a thickness and defining opposed first and second surfaces thereof, portions of said plate defining an outer peripheral edge and an inner peripheral edge defining a central region;

indicia formed into said plate and adapted to pick up ambient and supplied light;

a light source located within said central region;

a support coupled to said plate so as to support said plate relative to the instrument panel;

whereby said light source is adapted to illuminate said indicia through the transmission of light through said inner peripheral edge within said thickness of said face plate.

2. The display of claim 1 wherein said light source is centrally located within said inner perimeter edge.

3. The display of claim 2 wherein said light source is an LED.

4. The display of claim 2 wherein said light source is an LED array.

5. The display of claim 4 wherein said LED array is a circular array.

6. The display of claim 1 wherein said indicia is formed into one of said first and second surfaces.

7. The display of claim 1 wherein said indicia are etchings.

8. The display of claim 1 wherein said outer perimeter edge is internally reflective.

9. The display of claim 1 wherein said outer perimeter edge is beveled.
10. The display of claim 1 wherein said plate is transparent or translucent.
11. The display of claim 1 wherein said plate is glass or plastic.
12. The display of claim 1 wherein said first and second surfaces are supported by said support so as to be spaced from any adjacent surfaces of the instrument panel.
13. The display of claim 1 wherein said support includes a housing located at the center of said plate.
14. The display of claim 13 wherein said support extends generally perpendicularly with respect to a plane defined by said plate.
15. The display of claim 13 wherein said support extends generally parallel with respect to a plane defined by said plate.
16. The display of claim 13 wherein said housing encloses a stepper motor.
17. The display of claim 16 wherein said stepper motor is coupled to a pointer, said pointer being moveably positioned adjacent to said first face.
18. The display of claim 1 wherein said display is at least one selected from the group consisting of a fuel gage, an oil pressure gage, an engine temperature gage, a speedometer, a tachometer, an audio face plate and a knob.
19. The display of claim 1 wherein said support includes a housing located centrally with respect to said plate.

20. The display of claim 1 wherein said plate and indicia define a gage plate.
21. The display of claim 1 wherein said light source is an incandescent bulb.
22. The display of claim 1 wherein said light source is a florescent bulb.
23. The display of claim 1 wherein said light source is an electroluminescent sheet material or an electroluminescent wire.
24. The display of claim 23 wherein said inner peripheral edge is beveled and said sheet material or wire is applied over said inner peripheral edge.
25. The display of claim 1 wherein said light source is offset in said central region with respect to said inner peripheral edge.
26. The display of claim 1 further comprising a second plate supported by said support, said second plate corresponding in size and shape to said first plate, said first and second plates cooperating to define a cavity therebetween, a pointer moveably supported within said cavity and cooperatively associated with said indicia.